Activity Report 2018

1) Cardiology - cardiovascular surgery (cv-surgery): active clinical practice; continued education; teaching assistance in daily clinical practice; scientific presentations:

January
- Asmara, Eritrea: 1 mission (congenital cardiac surgery)
- Ukrainian Children's Cardiac Centre (UCCC): 1 missions (1 cardiology)
- Tashkent, Uzbekistan: 1 mission with complete team: cv-surgery, cardiology, anaesthesia, perfusion technology, intensive care treatment; the Republican Specialized Centre for Cardiology

February
- Ukrainian Children's Cardiac Centre (UCCC): 1 mission (Cardiology)
- St. Petersburg State Pediatric University: 1 mission (pediatric cardiac surgery)
- St. Petersburg First State Pavlov Medical University: 1 mission (adult cardiac surgery; presentations)
- St. Petersburg Pokrovskji-Hospital: 1 mission (aortic surgery)

March
- St. Petersburg First State Pediatric University: 1 mission (congenital cardiac surgery)
- Moskau: PR-Event and Fundraising with Russian Football Union
- Presentation of EAHF at the Swiss Embassy in Moscow
- Yangon + Mandalay, Myanmar: 1 mission (cv-surgery)
- Tashkent, Uzbekistan: 1 mission (cv-surgery, cardiology) with complete team at the Republican Specialized Centre for Cardiology
- Ukrainian Children's Cardiac Centre (UCCC): 1 mission (cardiology)

April
- Ukrainian Children's Cardiac Centre (UCCC): 2 missions (cardiology; cv-surgery)
- Mandalay, Myanmar: 1 mission (cv-surgery)

Mai
- Ukrainian Children's Cardiac Centre (UCCC): 2 missions (Cardiology, cv-surgery)
June
- Wuhan, China: Union Hospital Annual Meeting: EAHF-presentations: 2 different topics (by invitation; EAHF as Faculty Member)
- Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia: “fact finding mission”, by invitation from the only department of cardiology and cardiac surgery including paediatric cardiac surgery

July
- St. Petersburg First State Pediatric University: 2 missions (congenital cardiac surgery; perfusion)
- Tashkent, Uzbekistan: 1 mission (congenital heart disease in adult patients): Republican Specialized Centre for Cardiology

August
- Jakarta + Bandung, Indonesia: “fact finding mission” evaluating future cooperation with several hospital and GRHA hospital group
- Irkutsk, Russia: 1 mission with complete team (paediatric cardiac surgery; perfusion, cardiology, intensive care medicine)
- 1-week postgraduate education “Blood, coagulation, transfusion” in cooperation with “Danube University Krems, Austria, held in Kloster Hainburg, Austria
- Ukrainian Children’s Cardiac Centre (UCCC): 2 missions (1 cardiology; 1 cv-surgery)

September
- Tashkent, Uzbekistan: 1 mission (cv-surgery, cardiology, paediatric cardiac surgery) with complete team at the Republican Specialized Centre for Cardiology
- Lugansk, Ukraine: 2 missions (anaesthesia, adult and paediatric cardiac surgery) at the Republican Regional Clinical Hospital (by request of First State Pavlov Medical University, St. Petersburg, Russia)

October
- Ukrainian Children’s Cardiac Centre (UCCC): 2 missions (cardiology, cv-surgery)
- Tashkent, Uzbekistan: 1 mission (cv-surgery, cardiology) with complete team at the Republican Specialized Centre for Cardiology
- Lugansk, Ukraine: 2 missions (anaesthesia, adult and paediatric cardiac surgery) at the Republican Regional Clinical Hospital (by request of First State Pavlov Medical University, St. Petersburg, Russia)

November
- Lugansk, Ukraine: 2 missions (anaesthesia, adult and paediatric cardiac surgery) at the Republican Regional Clinical Hospital (by request of First State Pavlov Medical University, St. Petersburg, Russia)
- Tashkent, Uzbekistan: 2 missions with complete team (PR Vogt; R. Sodian; S. Däbritz; A. Nikoliski; S. Marchenko; A. Naumov, S. Schindler: adult and paediatric cardiac surgery, anaesthesia, intensive care medicine perfusion)
- Ukrainian Children’s Cardiac Centre (UCCC): 2 missions (cardiology, cv-surgery)
- Jakarta, Indonesia: GRHA hospital: (adult cv-surgery)

December
- Lugansk, Ukraine: 2 missions (anaesthesia, adult and paediatric cardiac surgery) at the Republican Regional Clinical Hospital (by request of First State Pavlov Medical University, St. Petersburg, Russia)
- Tashkent, Uzbekistan: 2 missions with complete team (PR Vogt; R. Sodian; S. Däbritz; A. Nikoliski; S. Marchenko; A. Naumov, S. Schindler: adult and paediatric cardiac surgery, anaesthesia, intensive care medicine; perfusion)
- St. Petersburg, Russia, First State Pavlov Medical University (adult cv-surgery)
- Ukrainian Children’s Cardiac Centre (UCCC): 1 mission (cardiology)
2) Specific Meetings and Events (EAHF as Faculty Member and/or Organiser)

- March: Presentation of EAHF/Research Projects at the National Academy of Sciences of the Ukraine in Kyiv (EAHF: 1st presentation from a foreign expert)
- March: Charity-Concert of London Philharmonic Orchestra at Tonhalle Zurich, Switzerland
- April: Charity-Concert for EAHF/UCCC at Opera House Kyiv, Ukraine
- May: Tashkent, Uzbekistan: invitation by the Ministry of Health; Presentations at the Republican Research Centre for Emergency Medicine; Presentations at the Annual Meeting of the Uzbekistan Society of Cardiology
- June: Wuhan, China: Huazhong University of Science and Technology (by invitation; several presentations + EAHF as Faculty Member)
- June: Invitation Embassy of Belarus, Berne, Switzerland
- June: Invitation Russian Embassy to celebrate opening of FIFA Football World Championship (fund raising event for EAHF)
- August: 1-week postgraduate education in Kloster Hainburg, Austria in cooperation with Danube University Krems; topic: blood, coagulation, transfusion
- Presentation of EAHF to the DEZA in Berne: former Parliament member Margrit Kessler; parliament member Christa Markwalder, supported by Bundesrat Ueli Maurer und Bundesrat Ignazio Cassis
- October: opening of new cardiology and cardiovascular surgery – adult and congenital – in Tashkent, Uzbekistan: Medical Centre Ezgu Niyat (complete team; practical work; management, consulting and organisation of the hospital)
- October: Presentation of EAHF at the Rotary Reussthal Club
- October: Lake Side Zürich, Kardiologie Klinik Im Park, Zürich Congress: “What’s the diagnosis” - Presentation of difficult EAHF patients
- December: Presentation of rare and exceptional EAHF-patients at the University Hospital, Zurich
- December: Presentation of EAHF at the Lions Club Cosmopolitan, Zurich (by invitation)

3) Science and Research

- Intellistent Project: development of a pulmonary artery flow restrictor for the treatment of pulmonary artery hypertension; Eisenmenger-syndrome and left heart failure: acute animal studies successfully performed; chronic animal study are delayed due to difficulties in the development of an appropriate introducer kit. In addition, successful involvement of investors took and takes more time than anticipated.
- Development of “Pulmonary artery hypertension” and “Eisenmenger-program” at Ezgu Niyat Medical Centre, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

4) Materials, devices, equipment

- The following hospitals again donated material, devices and equipment for free for EAHF: Triemli Hospital Zurich; Klinik Im Park, Zurich; Hirslanden-Klinik, Zurich; University Hospital, Zurich; Switzerland
- Actually, at the end of 2017 material and equipment for about 2 million Swiss Francs are stored and ready for delivery.

4) Administration

- Cooperation with Fund Raising Company, Fribourg, Switzerland with the purpose of professional, institutionalized fund raising. The income through these activities allowed to employ a full-time Managing Director responsible for further networking and fund raising.
- EAHF entered partnership with the Department of Cardiovascular Surgery of the University Hospital, Zurich (Director: Prof. Francesco Maisano).

5) Miscellaneous

- EAHF did again host several cardiologists and cardiovascular surgeons from different countries allowing them to cooperate with EAHF members in different hospitals in Zurich: University Hospital, Klinik Im Park, Hirslanden-Klinik, all in Zurich
- EAHF has been contacted by a vast number of foreign patients from different specialties. EAHF provided the appropriate experts cooperation with several hospitals all over Switzerland.
December: Paul Vogt received “Kolesov-medal” from the Academic Council of the First Pavlov State Medical University, St. Petersburg, Russia on behalf of EAHF work in Russia

6) Summary of clinical activities
Compared to the 2017 performance, EAHF increased the total number of patients treated interventional as well as surgically to 3626 patients. In addition, 14’045 consultations have been performed.

The scope of clinical treatment comprises the full spectrum of congenital and well as acquired diseases of the heart and the vessels and this is true with regard to:
- Diagnostic and interventional cardiology
- Cardiovascular surgery
- Intensive care treatment
- Anaesthesiology
- Perfusion technology (heart-lung machine and associated technical devices)
- Preventive care
- Follow-up care

In some areas, teaching and introduction of basic knowledge and basic techniques represent the key task of EAHF. In other areas, however, EAHF has been able to introduce latest technologies organising many “first-of” in various countries. Just to give an example: TAVI-procedure, Mitral-Clip and interventional closure of left atrial appendage, interventional closure of atrial and ventricular septal defects has been introduced and demonstrated as well as taught for the first time. New surgical procedures have been introduced such as the Florida-Sleeve operation for proximal aortic aneurysms or the Ozaki-like operation: replacement of aortic valve leaflets with autologous pericardium to avoid mechanical heart valves with life-long anticoagulation in patients living in the far-distant country-side.

Aside from the tasks as described, clinical missions included:
- Practical clinical work by EAHF members in complex and first-done procedures in interventional cardiology and cv- or congenital heart surgery
- Teaching assistance in real-time daily practice
- Clinical visits on the intensive care station, the regular ward as well as the outpatient departments
- Patient consulting in clinical rounds and morbidity-mortality conferences: hence, decision making for clinical patients: which patients need surgery, which patients need interventional treatment; which patients need medical treatment and follow-up visits only: which patients do not need any treatment at all
- Presentations of all kind of topics in cardiovascular medicine: hence, numerous presentations have been given at every mission (list beyond the scope of this summary)
- Introduction and teaching in new technologies
- Teaching in cost-effectiveness: “must-be-done’s” versus “must-not-be-done’s”
- Quality control
- Regular weekly Skype conferences have been performed with the UCCC in Kiev
- Numerous individual patients have been consulted via Internet-based scientific exchange
- Consulting in hospital management
- Opening of a completely new cardiological and cardiovascular surgical department – adult and paediatric – in Tashkent Uzbekistan. First interventions and operations carried out by EAHF-experts.

6A) Example 1: St. Petersburg State Pediatric University, St. Petersburg, Russia:
Die “First State Pavlov Medical University, St. Petersburg” decided to open paediatric surgery unit with cardiovascular surgery being the main topic: 40 beds on the ward, 16 ICU beds. Chairman: Prof. Sergey P. Marchenko, who works for 13 year with EAHF in Russia, Switzerland, Kazakhstan, Kirgizia, Myanmar, Uzbekistan and Cambodia. The University relies on the support of EAHF.

6B) Example 2: Uzbekistan
The development of the cardiovascular surgery at the “Republican Specialized Centre for Cardiology” in Tashkent has been completed. EAHF will only be consulted for difficult to treat, outstanding patients.
The department is self-standing and carries out up to 800 operations per year covering the largest scope of operations in Uzbekistan. Originally, EAHF donated heart-lung-machine as well as equipment and material for the operating theatre and the intensive care station and carried 40 out of the first 100 procedures themselves.

7) Specialities outside cardiovascular medicine: orthopaedic surgery
Mission in specialties outside cardiovascular medicine have not been carried out. Exchange of guest doctors to Switzerland has been organized and supported.

8) Unmet tasks and requests
Despite the progress described above, EAHF still struggles with various problems and is confronted with unmet requests:

- Fund raising has been improved in 2018
- Requests from several countries and different hospitals remained unmet:
  - e.g. Kirgizia; Turkmenistan; African countries
  - several hospitals in countries, where EAHF is already active, e.g. Russia: Vladivostok, Khabarovsk and other cities or regions such as e.g. Caucasus.
  - Requests for support in specialties outside cardiovascular medicine cannot be fulfilled.
- More donations with regard to materials, devices and equipment are needed to boost progress of individual centres. However, this work is extremely time-consuming. EAHF can only increase this highly beneficial part of his work if external support will be given.
- The involvement of wealthy local people in the corresponding countries to support their own health care system still is insufficient
- The involvement of political and administrative decision makers in the corresponding countries to support EAHF has markedly improved. However, only 2018 will show, if this support will be continued and will work efficiently.
- EAHF started successful negotiations with the DEZA, the Swiss Department for developmental aid and is awaiting first-time support.

Prof. Paul R. Vogt
President of the Board of the Foundation